



Developing an Alaska Wetland Program Plan



Prior State Wetland Program Work

- Draft regulations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in 1993
- Hydrogeomorphic functional assessment guidebooks in the late 1990's and early 2000's
- Discussed development of programmatic general permits with the Corps in 2004
- Pursued primacy of Clean Water Act §402 2003 - 2008

Elements of a Wetland Program Plan

- A voluntary plan that describes overall program goals, broad-based actions, and specific activities to achieve the goals.
- EPA's basis for review is consistency with the Core Elements Framework.
 1. Monitoring and assessment
 2. Regulation
 3. Voluntary restoration and protection
 4. Water quality standards for wetlands

Elements of a Wetland Program Plan

1. Monitoring and assessment
 - Objectives, strategies, and long-term environmental outcomes
 - Indicators of wetland condition or function
2. Regulation
 - Clear, comprehensive jurisdictional coverage
 - ID regulated activities; public guidance
3. Voluntary restoration and protection
 - Consistent/compatible goals across agencies
 - Guidance on restoration, management and success measures
4. Water quality standards for wetlands
 - Develop/ adopt wetlands definition

Alaska's Path to a Wetlands Program Plan

1. Funding –Wetlands Program Development Grant
2. Partnership
 - Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to lead state agency work group with staff from Departments of Natural Resources (DNR), Fish and Game (ADFG) and Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT)
 - Workshop opportunity to identify and engage with federal agencies, local & tribal governments, and other stakeholders
3. Building knowledge
 - Contractor support to research other state approaches
 - Workshop with invited speakers, open to public
 - Opportunity for public comment
 - Summary report posted to web
4. Submit WPP to EPA

Wetland Program Plan (WPP) Timeline

Milestones & Deliverables	Completion (tentative)
Develop of WPP outline	October 2013
Develop WPP presentation	December 2013
First meeting state wetlands work group	January 2014
State wetlands program development workshop	April 2014
Second meeting of state wetlands work group	March 2014
Workshop summary report (posted to internet)	May 2014
Draft WPP	June 2014
Third meeting of state wetlands work group	June 2014
Complete WPP and submit to EPA	Sept 2014



Contact Information

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Resources

Wetland Program Plans

aswm.org/wetland-programs/wetland-program-plans

Wetland Program Plans Handbook

aswm.org/wetland-programs/wetland-program-plans/5457-wetland-program-plans-handbook

State Wetland Program Plans

aswm.org/wetland-programs/wetland-program-plans/2647-state-wetland-program-plans

Core Elements of an Effective State Wetlands Program - EPA

water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cefintro.cfm

